

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/532,065

Examiner

James O. Hansen

Applicant(s)

LARET ET AL.

Art Unit

3637

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 1, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 20, 5, 7, 8, 12, 21, 10, 11 & 13-19 renumbered 1-18 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kenneth Berner on October 19, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Claim 1.** (currently amended): A device for lock-fixing an apparatus comprising a front face, and at least two lateral sides designed to be mounted in a rack comprising side walls along which the lateral sides of the apparatus are inserted, said device comprising:

first and second fixing elements respectively, securable to the two lateral sides of the apparatus and to the side walls of the rack, the first element being moved by operating a handle in order to interact with the second fixing element to fix the apparatus in the rack,

Deleted: secured

a mechanism for locking said handle,  
the handle having a gripping member connected to a handle body situated on a lateral side of the apparatus, wherein;

the locking mechanism comprises a sliding hook situated on one of the lateral sides close to an edge of the front face, a compression spring associated with an abutment used to hold the hook in an abutment position for positioning the handle in a locked position, and a pushbutton secured to the hook and situated on the front

Deleted: and

face of the apparatus allowing a user to retract the sliding hook to unlock the handle,  
wherein, in the locking phase,

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the handle being operated by the user in a rotary movement to fix the  
apparatus, the handle body moves along the lateral side comprising the hook,  
retracting said hook, thus freeing said handle to pass,

after the passage of the handle, the compression spring repositions the hook in  
the abutment position in order to return the handle to the locked position.

Deleted: thus serving as an  
abutment to said handle body in

**Claim 19.** (currently amended): The fixing device as claimed in claim 1, in  
combination with a rack, wherein the rack includes an area of reduced thickness on  
each of its side walls thereby allowing said handle body to be housed.

Deleted: A

Deleted: equipped with at least  
one apparatus fixed by means of a  
fixing device according to claim 1,  
wherein it has, on each of its side  
walls situated facing one side of  
the apparatus along which is  
situated a handle body,

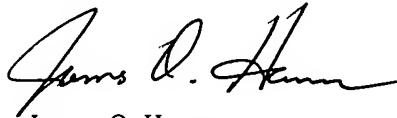
**Claim 21.** (currently amended): The fixing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
the bearing plane of the handle body extends longitudinally, its longitudinal dimension  
being greater than that of the bearing plane of the hook.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the  
examiner should be directed to James O. Hansen whose telephone number is 571-  
272-6866. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 8-4:30  
pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's  
supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for  
the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



James O. Hansen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3637

JOH  
October 26, 2007